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ABSTRACT

An annotated listing contains 35 basic reference materials on folklore. Following a discussion of the definition of folklore, citations are divided into the following categories: encyclopedias and dictionaries, national and regional encyclopedias and dictionaries, bibliographies, guides, indexes, and periodicals. The Library of Congress classification, bibliographic information, and a brief description are provided for each entry. Some sources are published in foreign languages only. Most materials cited were published between 1962 and 1980. (LP)

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REFERENCE SOURCES FOR FOLKLORE STUDIES

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FOLKLORE REFERENCE SOURCES

Among the thousands of books about various aspects of folklore are hundreds that could be considered basic reference sources. Listed here are those that are useful enough to the librarians at the University of Arizona library to be included in the central reference collection, with a few added from the stacks.

Defining folklore is always a problem, mostly because finding a stopping place in the definition is almost impossible. When does folklore become culture? history? religion? anthropology? Does folklore include such subjects as the occult? witchcraft? astrology? Can folklore be limited to the recorded oral traditions of various cultures, or should music, dance, and costume be included? Obviously, there is a lot of overlap among all these subjects. The sources listed here are only those that deal with the oral tradition of folklore, including some legends and mythology, as it is recorded in books and periodicals.

Library of Congress classification numbers are included to help those persons in LC arranged libraries find these sources, and similar ones on nearby shelves.

I- ENCYCLOPEDIAS AND DICTIONARIES

A. GR 35 J6 — Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore, and Symbols. Gertrude Jobes. New York : Scarecrow, 1961.

This 3 volume short-entry dictionary is simple to use and contains most answers to the who, what, where type questions about world folklore. The third volume is a subject index to the first two, containing a listing of deities and a table of mythological affiliations. This is a good place to find short answers about the esoteric details.

B. GR 35 F8 — Funk and Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology, and Legend. New York : Funk and Wagnall, 1949.

A gathering of articles of varying quality, this dictionary format, 2 volume work is not as detailed as Jobes (above), but treats some subjects in greater depth. Many of the entries are fascinatingly readable. (21 definitions of "Folklore" by 21 separate authors are included.) Very useful cross references are given to Stith Thompson's Motif Index (see below, IV B). There is no index, but dictionary format makes this unnecessary.

C. BF 1407 D35 Daniels Encyclopedia of Superstition, Folklore, and the Occult Sciences. 4 vol. c1903 (reprint, Detroit : Gale, 1971)

This old 4 volume source contains the answers to some folklore questions not found in the other encyclopedias, especially those dealing with popular superstitions. There is broad subject arrangement, with a short entry index in the third volume.

D. GR 550 E6 Enzyklopadie des Marchens. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter, 1977. 3 volumes and supplements.

Up to date and complete listings and definitions of world folklore, folklorists, terms, and motifs. Long bibliographies accompany the concise articles. In German.

E. GR 549 B74 An Encyclopedia of Fairies (Hobgoblins, Brownies, Bogies, and other Supernatural Creatures). New York : Pantheon, 1976.

A fun-to read, dictionary format source, this is the place to find out where your grandmother came up with her name for what you know as goblins. It often includes complete folktales to illustrate the character entries.

F. GR 110 D48 P82 Popular Belief and Superstitions, a Compendium of American Folklore. Anna Casetta, et.al. Boston : G.K. Hall, 1981.

36,209 popular superstitions are here compiled, taken from a collection in Ohio. A form is provided for you to contribute your own mild phobias. The index (v. 3) provides good access to the broad subject arrangement of this work.

G. GR 650 G8 Dictionary of Imaginary Places. Alberto Manguel. New York : MacMillan, 1980.

Alphabetical listings of places that appear in folklore, mythology, and fiction (such as OZ and Pepperland) are given entertaining write-ups in this gazeteer.

H. RC 81 A2 R56 — A Dictionary of Medical Folklore. Carol Anne Rinzler. New York : Crowell, 1979.

An entertaining, straightforward source which can answer a lot of commonly asked questions. Indexed. Yes, there is an entry under "chicken soup".

I. GR 825 C483 — Bestiare Fabuleux. Jean Paul Clebert. Paris : A. Michel, 1971.

All the fabulous beasts you've ever wanted to know about are here defined. Where they come from and descriptions are included. In French.

J. **National and Regional Dictionaries and Encyclopedias.**
There are many of these. Here are a few:

1. GR 141 B69 — A Dictionary of British Folk-tales. Katherine M. Briggs. London : Routledge and Kegan, 1970. 4 vol.

Includes plot summaries and historical tracings of each tale.

2. GR 166 B25 — Handworterbucher zur Deutschen Volkskunde. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter, 1927. 12 vol.

All types of German folklore is treated in this massive 12 volume work in German.

3. GR 133 A7 — Diccionario Folklorico Argentino. Buenos Aires : El Ateneo, 1948, 1950.

Terms, characters, and tales are explained in this one volume work in Spanish.

4. GR 133 B3 C7 — Diccionario Folklorico Brasiliero. Rio de Janeiro : Instituto Nacional, 1962.

Like above, in Portuguese.

5. GR 146 O6 — A Handbook of Irish Folklore. Sean O'Suilleabhain. London : Herbert Jenkins, 1942 (reprint, 1963).

Arranged for browsing under large general headings, the table of contents is the only index.

II- BIBLIOGRAPHY

These are sources aimed specifically at Folklore. Other, more general sources also cover the subjects well. Patterson's Literary Research Guide is especially good for finding sources about the literature of folklore. Most of these bibliographies cover American folklore; there are bibliographies of varying quality for many other cultures.

A. Z 5985 C5 Cleveland Public Library Catalog of Folklore, Folklife, and Folksongs. 2nd ed. Boston : G.K. Hall, 1978.

Three large volumes of printed catalog cards from a special collection.

B. Z 5981 B78 Folklore, a Study and Resource Guide. Brunvard. New York : St. Martin's, 1976.

An essay bibliography of reference sources about folklore, this has good annotations and comparisons of the sources it covers. Coverage is spotty, however.

C. Z 5984 U5 H3 A Bibliography of North American Folklore and Folksong. Charles A. Haywood. New York : Dover, c1951.

Dated but still useful, Haywood is noted for its attention to North American Indian Lore. Folktales are elaborately classified by types and areas and extensive, unannotated bibliographies are included. The very necessary index in volume 2 provides access by author, title, and subject.

D. Z 5984 U6 F55 American Folklore, a Bibliography, 1950-1974. Flanagan. Metuchen, N.J. : Scarecrow, 1971.

Mostly a simple list of 3600 books and periodical articles arranged by subject, with short annotations. Very selective, indexed.

E. Z 5984 A44 S95 Afro-American Folk Culture. Szwed and Abrahams. Philadelphia : Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1977.

Part I covers North America, listing bibliographies, general sources, and geographically specific sources. Part II includes listings for the West Indies, Central, and South America by area. There are indexes in each volume, but the subject headings are broad, making this bibliography hard to access. Short annotations are included for each citation.

F. Z 5984 C35 F68 — Bibliography of Canadian Folklore in English. Fowke and Carpenter. Toronto : University of Toronto, 1981.

Arranged by type of materials and indexed only by authors and titles, this needs easier access. No annotations.

G. Z 5984 U6 H45 — Annotated Bibliography of Chicano Folklore from the Southwestern United States. Michael Heisley. Los Angeles : University of California, 1977.

Lists and annotates over 1000 reference sources.

III- CLASSIFICATION, GUIDES

A. PN 1001 T5 — The Folktale. Stith Thompson. New York : Dryden Press, 1946.

Unfortunately outdated in its bibliographies, this is still an excellent introduction to the problems of Folklore study. The easy, chatty style makes for good reading. Thompson includes N. American Indian tales and sources.

B. GR 1 F55 #184 — The Types of Folktale. Stith Thompson. Helsinki : Folklore Fellows, 1961.

Antti Aarne invented the "Finnish Method" for classifying folktales. Stories are reduced to outlines and each aspect of the plot is analyzed. The tales are then plotted geographically and (when possible) chronologically; from this information the first place of origin of the tale can be deduced, and the original plot. Subsequent versions are classed under this basic plot. Translated and enlarged by Stith Thompson, and printed in Folklore Fellows Communication, 1961, this includes cross-references to his motif index (see below). This source is very useful for tracing the history of a folk tale as well as for locating different versions of the old favorites.

IV- INDEXES

Included here are several kinds of indexes: to find folktales in collections, to find folktales by motifs, and periodical indexes to find articles about folklore. Again, more general indexes are also useful, most notably the MLA bibliography.

A. Z 5983 F17 I732 — Index to Fairytales, Myths, and Legends. Eastman (1926-49) Ireland (1950-1977). Westwood, Mass. : Faxon.

A straightforward index to tales, by title, listing where they appear in collections.

B. GR 67 T52 — Motif Index of Folk Literature. Stith Thompson. 6 vol. Bloomington, Indiana : Indiana University, 1955-8.

This very complete work gives access to tales of which you can only remember part. Five volumes of subject-arranged tales are indexed in the sixth volume. Specific subjects can be browsed quickly. Thompson includes the oral tradition of myths, legends, and miscellaneous narratives, and loses only a little by being so dated.

C. GR 74.6 M3 — The Storyteller's Sourcebook. Margaret Read MacDonald. Detroit : Gale, 1982.

A condensed, newer work like the Motif Index, this is very popular in smaller libraries, and very useful to children's librarians for finding stories for story time on specific subjects.

D. Z 5981 Z53 — Folklore, an Annotated Bibliography and Index to Single Editions. Else B. Ziegler. Weston, Mass. : Faxon, 1973.

This combines the motif index with an index to collections. Unfortunately, it is very short. Excellent arrangement provides easy, quick access.

E. GR 1 A52 — Abstracts of Folklore Studies. 1963-1975. Austin, Texas : American Folklore Society.

This was a quarterly selection of articles about folklore from journals. Approximately 300 citations were in each issue of articles about music, general country life, cooking, ethnic groups, linguistics, etc. in addition to "straight" folklore. All of this has been picked up by the MLA, which began to cover other, less literary aspects of folklore in 1970.

F. Z 5984 V6 C45 — American Folklore Films and Videotapes. New York : Bowker, 1976.

Vol. 1 is an index, and vol. 2 a catalog (with descriptions and illustrations). A subject index and list of distributors are included.

V- PERIODICALS

There are hundreds of folklore periodicals worldwide. They range from the popular (Foxfire) to the scholarly. Some are listed here, chosen for their worldwide or large area coverage. Browse the shelves in the GR1 area for other regional magazines.

A. GR 1 F5 — Folklore. London : The Folklore Society.

Two issues per year of about 130 pages each cover worldwide folklore. Very prestigious, this has been published since the 1880s.

B. GR 1 J87 — Journal of the Folklore Institute. Bloomington, Indiana.

Scholarly, worldwide coverage of folklore in three issues per year. Approximately 150 p. per issue.

C. GR 1 F25 — Fabula. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter.

A trilingual (German, English, and French) journal covering worldwide folklore in a scholarly way, this is issued twice per year with about 200 pages per issue.

D. GR 1 J8 — Journal of American Folklore. Washington, D.C. : American Folklore Society.

North American coverage. 4 issues per year of about 120 p.

E. GR 330 F6 — Asian Folklore Studies. Nayoya, Japan : Nanzan Univ.

Covers anything related to folklore and folk music in Asia. Two 300 page issues per year.

F. GR 1 J85 — Journal of Latin American Lore. Los Angeles : UCLA Latin American Center.

Two 125 p. issues per year.